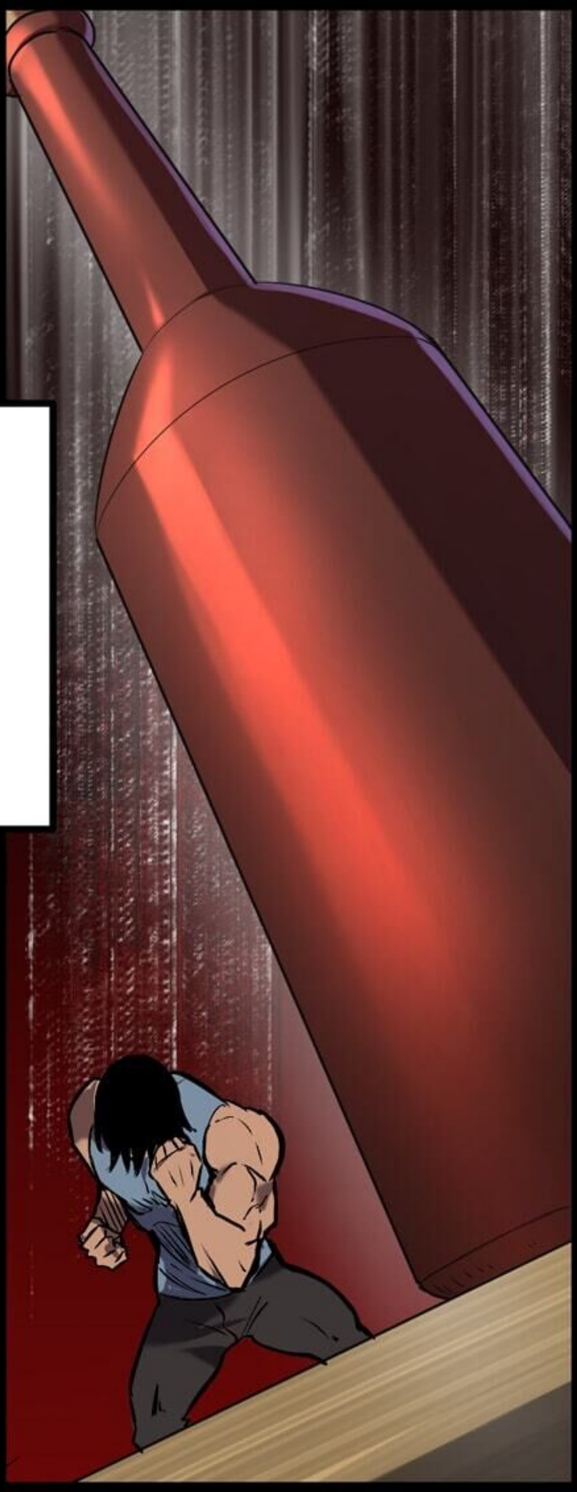
AURA

THE EXTERNAL MANIFESTATION OF ONE'S POWER AFTER A HUNTER GOES THROUGH AN EXTREME LEVEL TRAINING HIS BODY AND ENERGY.



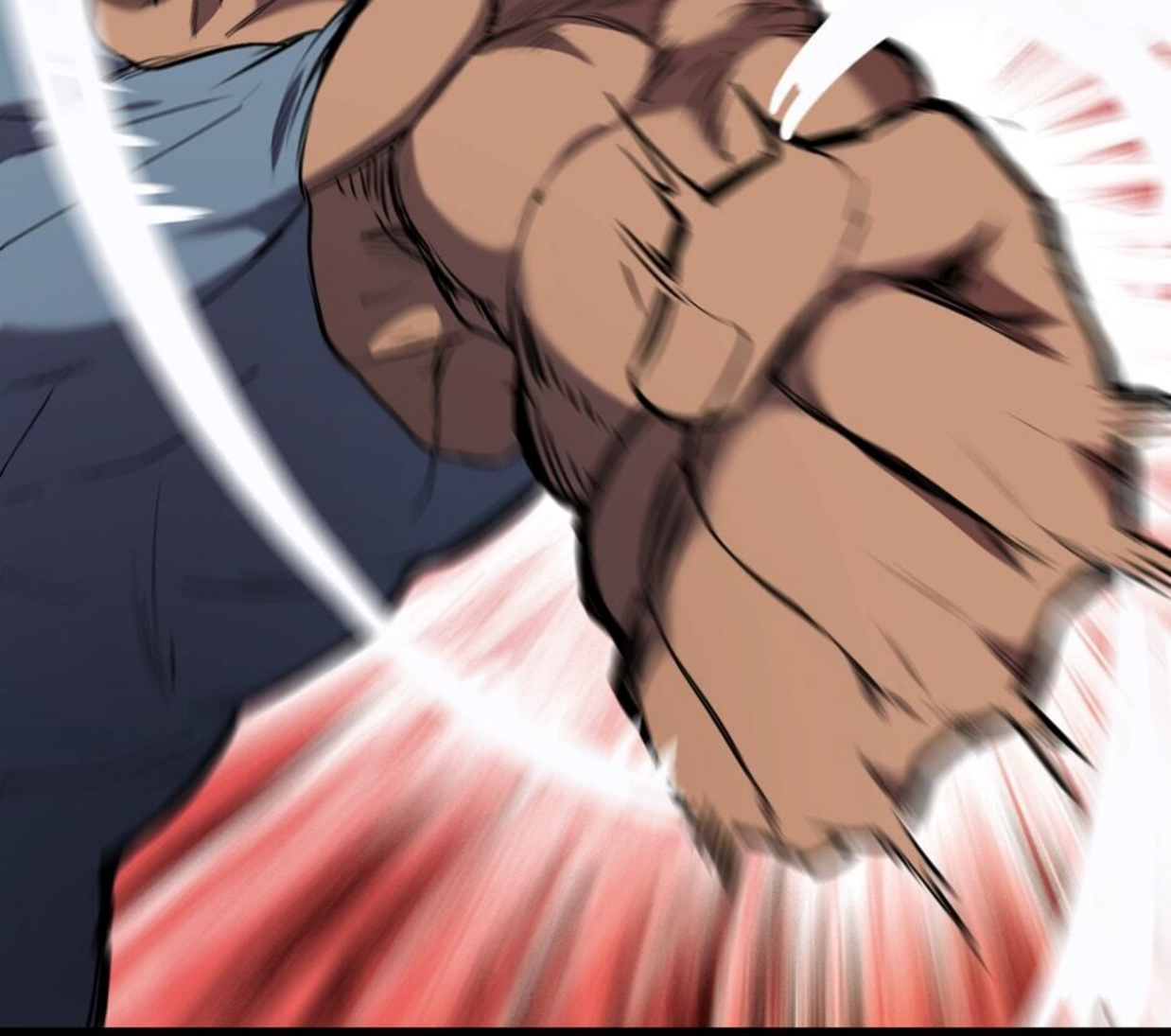
A PERSON WHO HARNESSES IT CAN TRANSCEND BEYOND THE LIMITS OF ANY HUMAN BEING

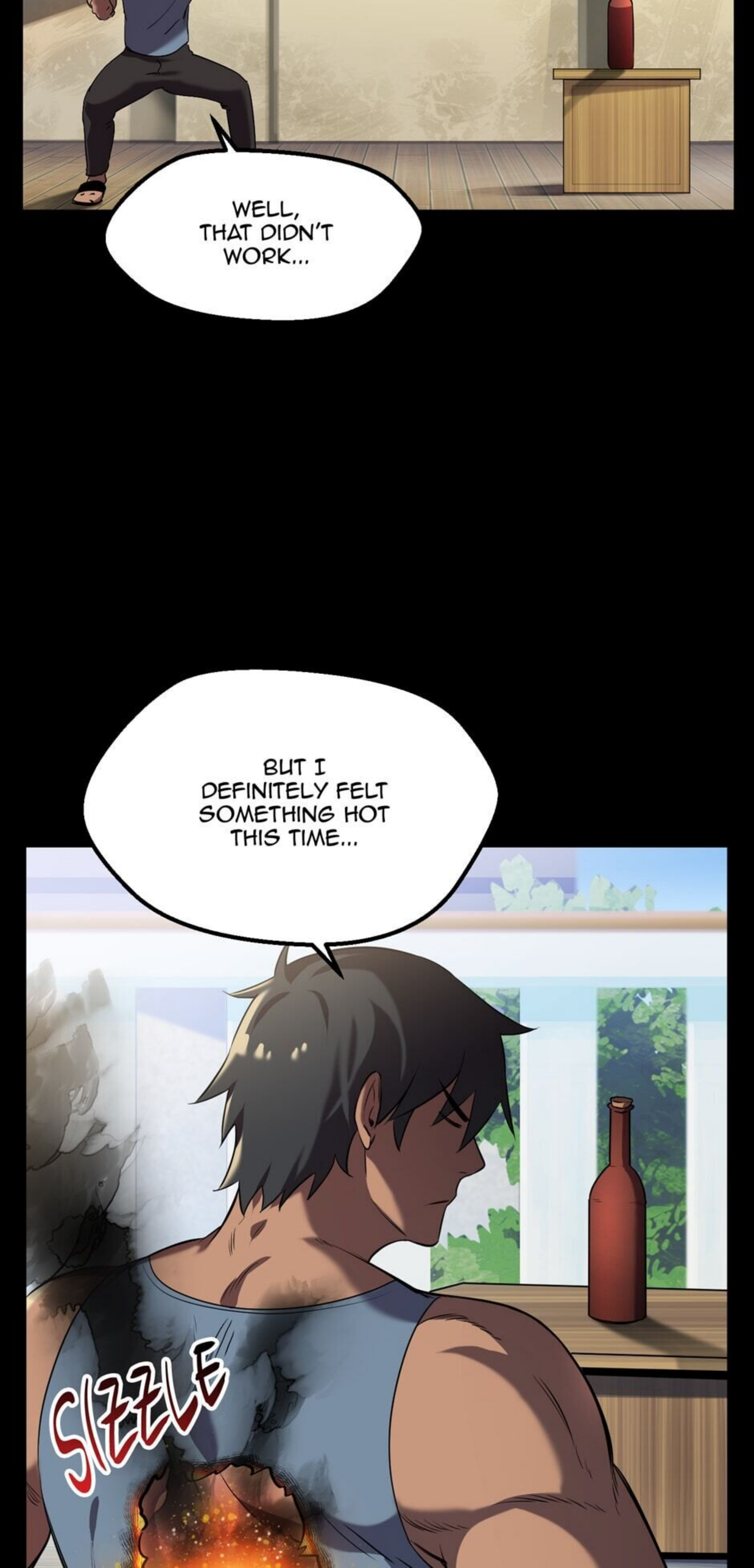
HUMAN BEING.

I CAN FEEL IT...

THE ENERGY BURNING INSIDE ME...!

WHOOSH




WELL, THAT DIDN'T WORK...
BUT I DEFINITELY FELT SOMETHING HOT THIS TIME...
SIZZLE

IT'S HOT!!
I-I'M SORRY! I'LL PUT IT OUT NOW!
SHWOOM
TOO COLD!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING? NO MATTER HOW TOUGH I AM, I CAN STILL BURN TO DEATH!
GRAARGH
HAHAHA... SORRY

ABOUT THAT. I WAS PRACTICING WITH THE NEW MAGIC SCROLL I GOT.

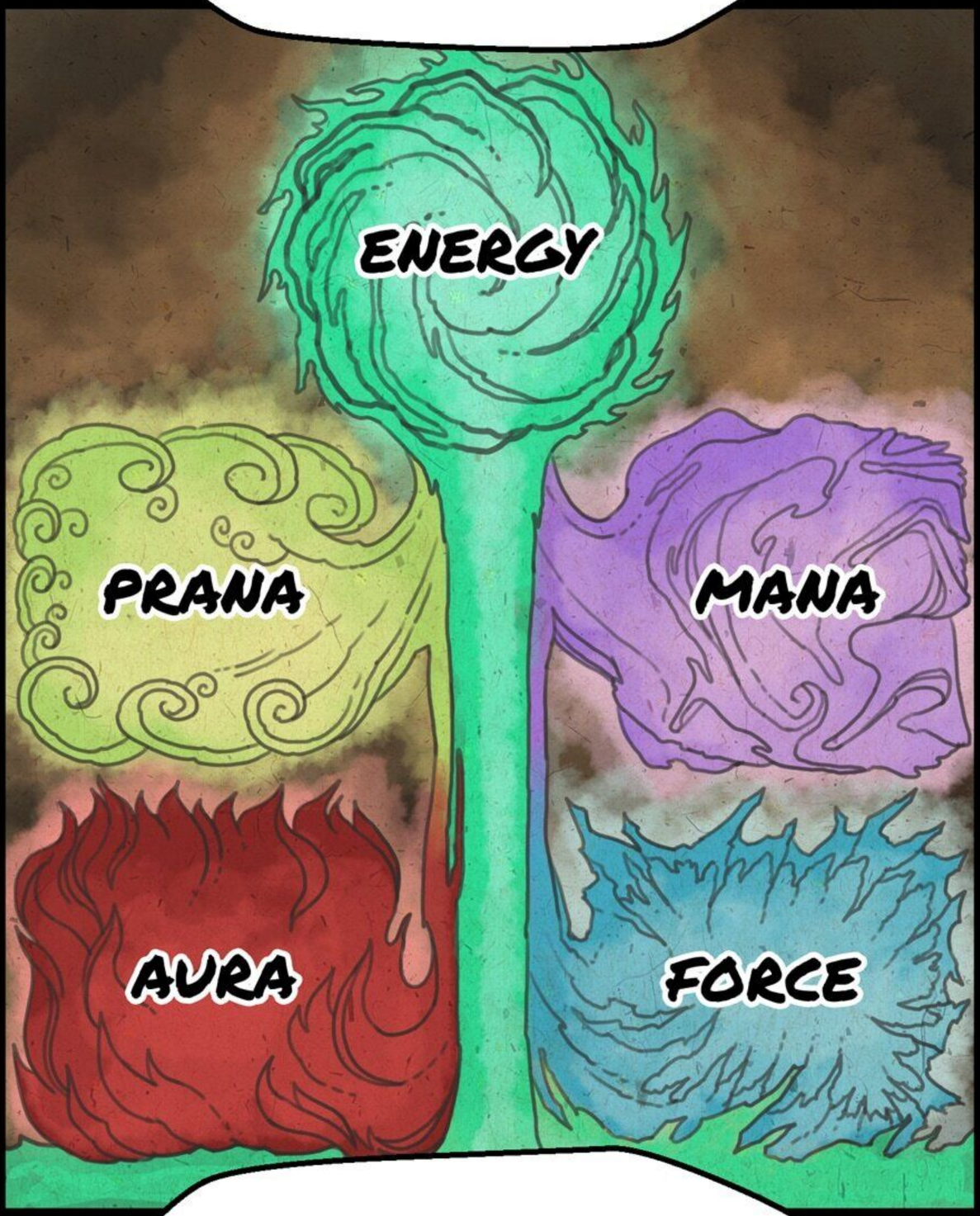
DIDN'T YOU SAY IT COSTS AS MUCH AS A HOUSE? YOU ACTUALLY BOUGHT IT?!

A SCROLL OF MAGIC
MINIMUM USER LEVEL: 45
A SCROLL THAT TEACHES YOU HOW TO LEARN MAGIC SPELLS.

IT TEACHES ME HOW MANA FLOWS INTO A SPELL AND ALLOWS ME TO PRACTICE MY KNOWLEDGE. IT'S DEFINITELY WORTH THE MONEY!

HAA... IT MUST BE NICE TO BE A MAGE~
HOW COME THERE'S NO SECRET SCROLL ABOUT LEARNING HOW TO USE AURA?
HAHA...
PLOP
I DON'T MEAN TO DISAPPOINT YOU, BUT THERE CAN BE NO SUCH THING.

BUT WHETHER IT'S AURA OR MANA, IT'S ALL ROOTED IN *ENERGY.*



AND ENERGY IS CATEGORIZED INTO FOUR MAJOR TYPES, BASED ON THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PERSON'S OWN ENERGY.

ULTIMATELY, SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES BASED ON THOSE FOUR MAJOR ENERGY TYPES BECAME SEPARATE OCCUPATIONS.
SO THERE ARE WAYS TO TEACH SOMEONE HOW TO GET BETTER AT USING EACH ENERGY TYPE, BUT NOTHING CAN TEACH YOU HOW TO OBTAIN THE STARTING FEEL FOR IT.
AURA IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT THAN THE REST OF

THAN THE REST OF THE FOUR TYPES BECAUSE IT CAN ONLY BE ATTAINED THROUGH YEARS OF TRAINING.

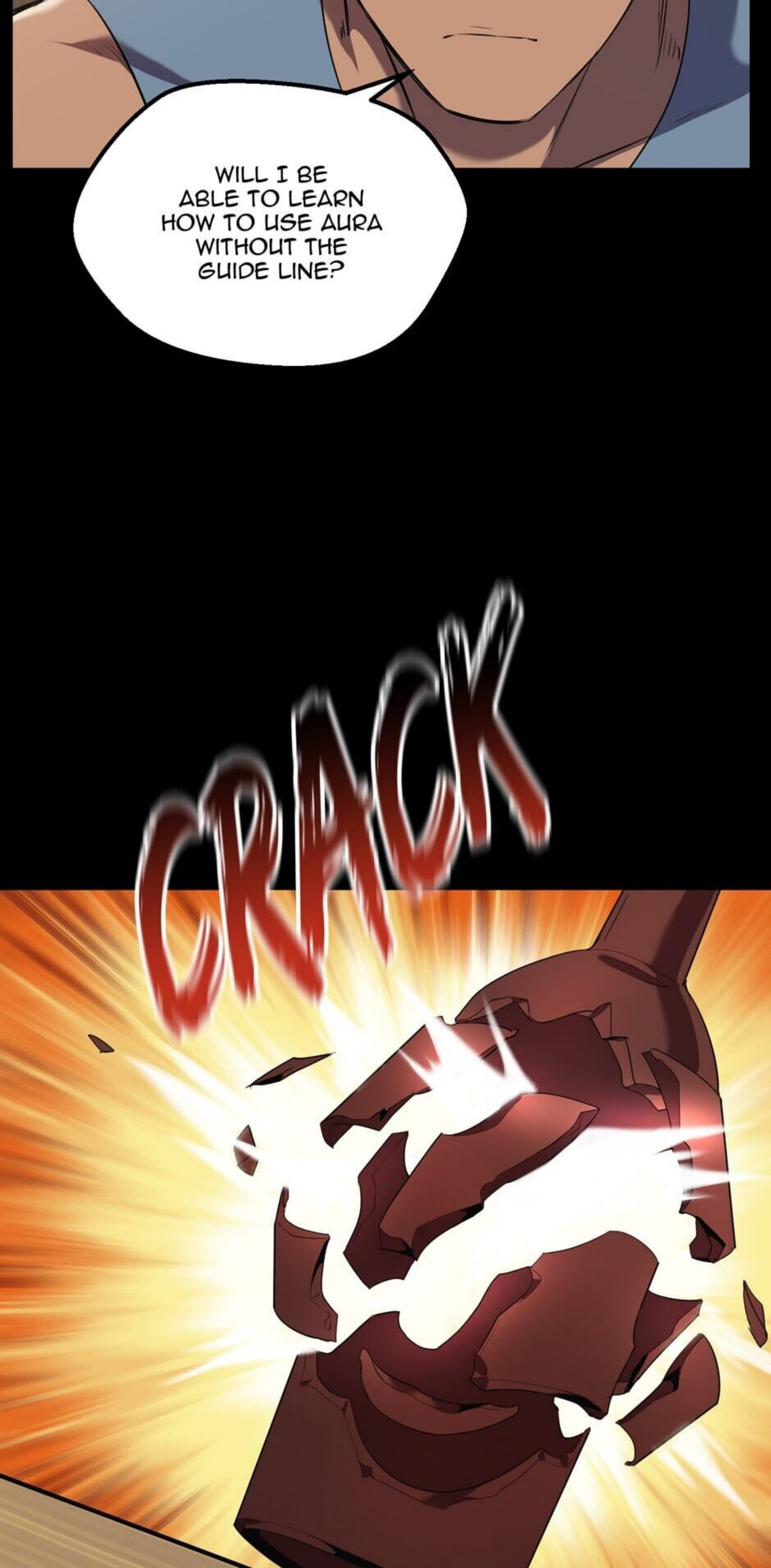
I HEARD SOME PEOPLE TRAIN FOR DECADES BEFORE BARELY GETTING A HANDLE ON USING AURA.

THE INDIVIDUAL LEARNING CURVE TO ATTAINING AURA VARIES GREATLY PER PERSON. BUT THAT ALSO MEANS NO ONE WILL FIND YOU SUSPICIOUS YET.

'YET'? SO SOMEONE ***WILL*** BE SUSPICIOUS LATER?

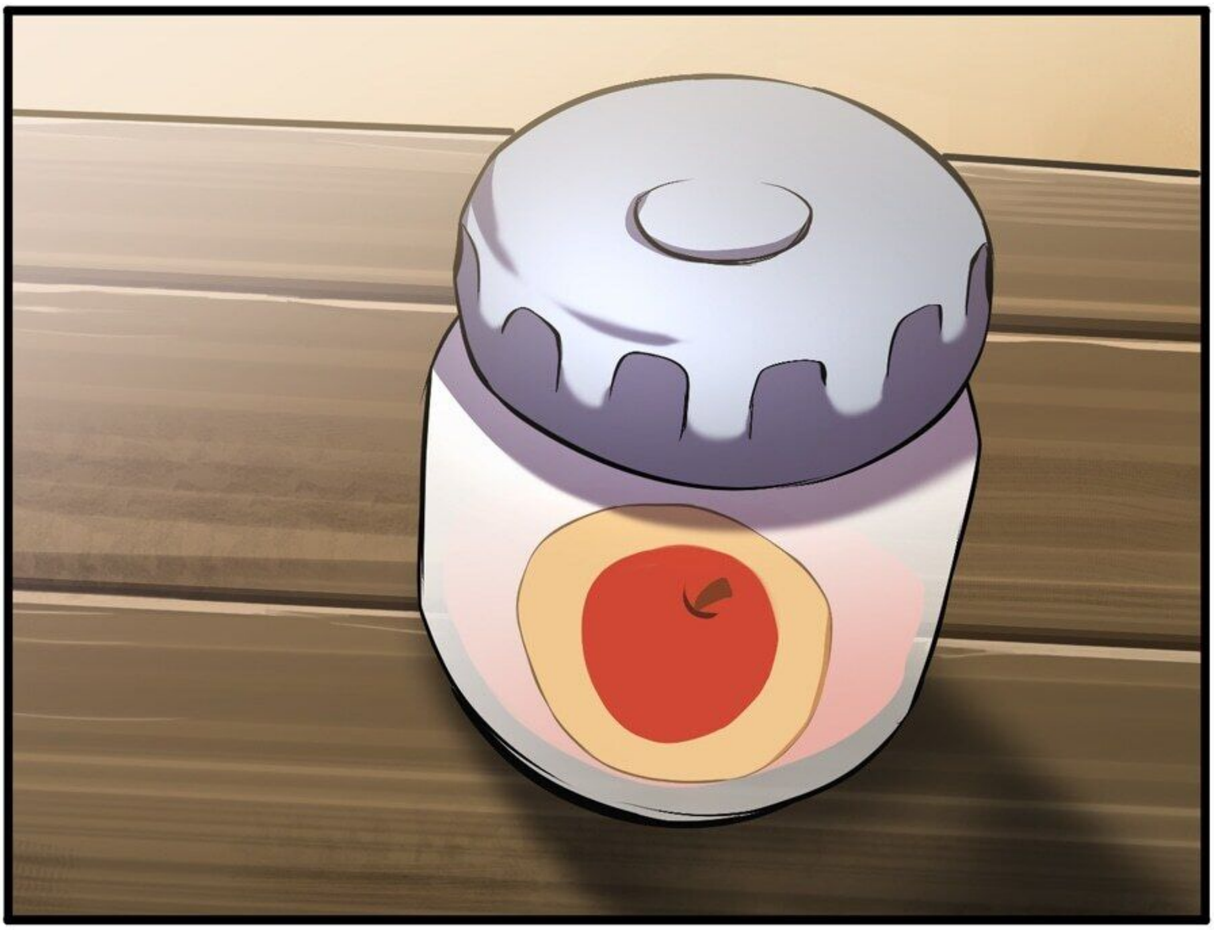
WELL, THIS IS PROBABLY THE LAST DUNGEON TO GO TO WITHOUT AROUSING MUCH SUSPICION.
THE HIGHER-LEVEL DUNGEONS ARE FILLED WITH MONSTERS THAT ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO FIGHT WITHOUT USING ONE OF THE FOUR ENERGY TYPES.
PEOPLE WILL DEFINITELY BE SUSPICIOUS ABOUT A HUNTER FIGHTING WITHOUT USING AURA.

SO IT'LL BE FILLED WITH MONSTERS LIKE THAT LICH GUY...
ONCE WE'RE OUT OF HERE, WE'LL HAVE TO FACE MANY MONSTERS THAT CANNOT BE DEFEATED WITH PHYSICAL STRENGTH ALONE.
DAMN IT! IF ONLY MY GUIDE LINE WAS PROPERLY FUNCTIONING... I COULD'VE LEARNED TO USE AURA NATURALLY!


WILL I BE ABLE TO LEARN HOW TO USE AURA WITHOUT THE GUIDE LINE?
CRACK

IF WE EVER FACE AN ENEMY YOU CAN'T OVERWHELM WITH YOUR STRENGTH...
...I CAN USE MY MAGIC.

I STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO, BUT
I'M LEVELING UP TOO! NO NEED TO WORRY.



NERVOUS

ANXIOUS

AHH! C'MON...!

WHY DOES HE HAVE TO BE SO STUBBORN ALL THE TIME!!

AAAAGHHH
NO... NO!
HE'S USED TO DISGUISING HIMSELF! I'M SURE HE CAN GET AWAY THIS TIME WITH NO PROBLEM.

AND THERE'S PROBABLY NO ONE THERE WHO'S GOT A HIGHER LEVEL THAN ARTIS.
HE'LL BE FINE... RIGHT?

MS. STIA IS
THE LAST HUNTER TO
BE ACCEPTED!

WELCOME TO THE DRAGON'S NE--

TAKA TAKA

HEY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO HIM?!

HE DID COME UNINVITED TO THE TESTING SITE,

BUT HE'S STILL ALIVE! AND YOU RULED IT 'AN ACCIDENTAL DEATH'?

I GUESS HE HAD MORE FAT UNDERNEATH THAT BELLY THAN I THOUGHT.

NO WORRIES, HE'LL DIE NATURALLY IF WE JUST LEAVE HIM HERE!

HEY, YOU! BLACK-HAIRED SPELLSWORD!

WHO? ME?

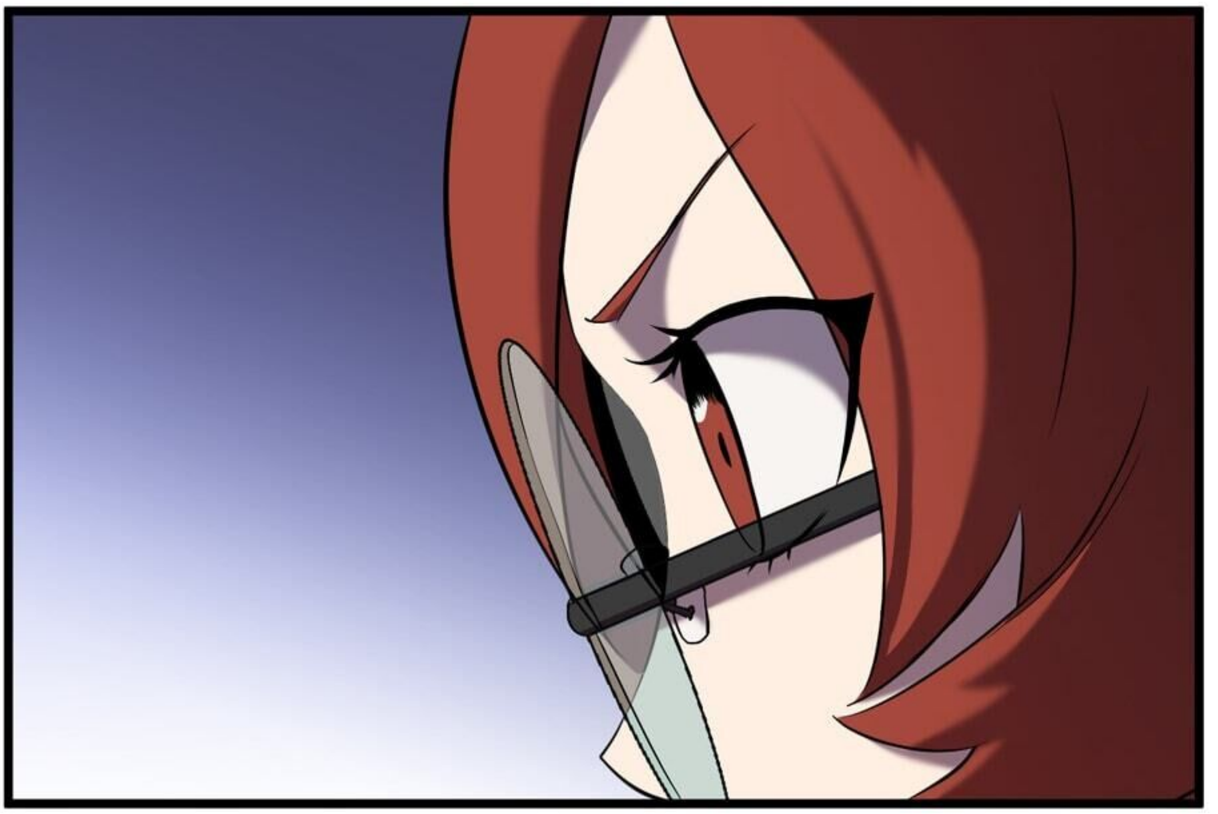
YES!

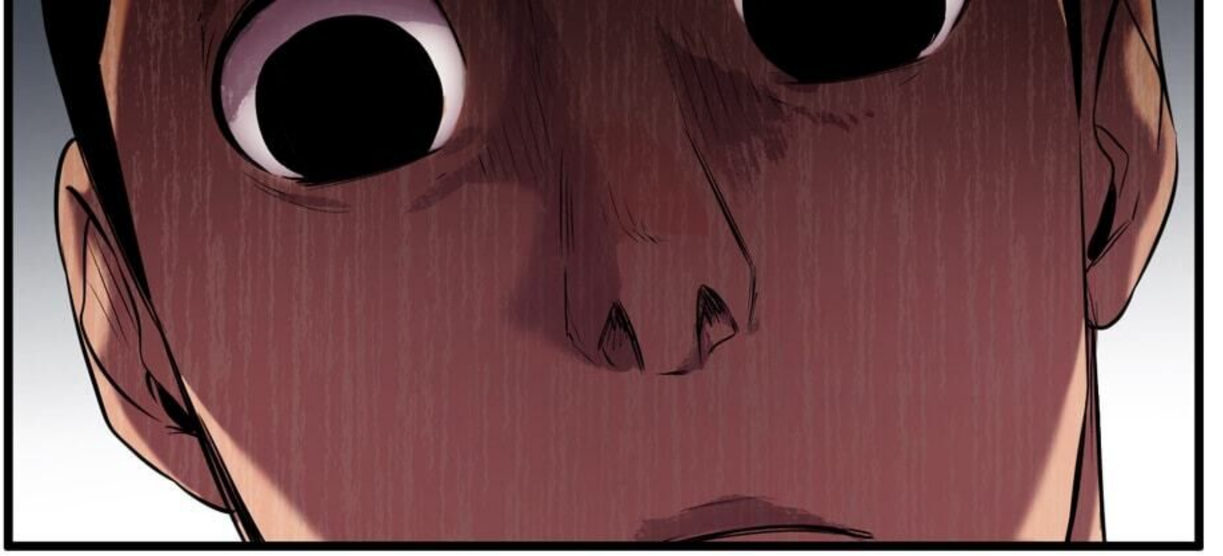
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME! PLEASE HURRY AND HELP!

TAKA

HELP...?

KEEP HIS MOUTH OPEN SO I CAN FEED HIM POTION.
LIKE THIS?
WE CAN'T LEAVE HIM HERE. LET'S PUT HIM IN A WAGON AND TAKE HIM TO THE DRAGON'S NEST.
WHAT?!





NOISY

NOISY
PLOD

WE'VE...
FINALLY MADE IT...

YOU HAD
NO CHOICE EITHER,
ELLIE.

YOU HAD TO DO IT FOR HER, SINCE SHE SAVED YOUR LIFE...

THE DRAGON'S NEST...

I DID SUSPECT THAT MAYBE SOMEONE FOUND A SIMILAR-LOOKING PLACE AND NAMED IT A DRAGON'S NEST.

IT DOESN'T

LOOK LIKE IT'S NATURALLY FORMED.

BUT THESE PIPES AND DEVICES ARE DEFINITELY INSTALLED BY HUMANS.

IT SHOULD BE OVERFLOWING WITH ENERGY IF IT WAS A TRUE DRAGON'S NEST, BUT I DON'T FEEL MUCH ENERGY AT ALL.

ARE THEY JUST OCCUPYING AN OLD DRAGON'S NEST THAT'S ALREADY BEEN DESTROYED?

I NEED TO CHECK IF IT'S A FUNCTIONING DRAGON'S NEST.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WHOA?!

I WAS JUST WONDERING WHY YOU WERE STARING AT THINGS SO

AT THINGS SO INTENTLY.

OH, I WAS JUST LOOKING AT ALL THE PIPES.

HMM...?

WH-WHY DO YOU ASK?

I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR HAVING SAVED MY LIFE,
WHEW
BUT IT COULD'VE GOTTEN REALLY DANGEROUS BACK THERE, YOU KNOW.
YES... I HAD NO IDEA A GIANT

WOULD JUST BARGE IN LIKE THAT.

YOU SEE THE MAN THAT TOOK DOWN THE GIANT EARLIER?
YES. THE PROCTOR, YOU MEAN?
THAT'S JUST HIS TEMPORARY DUTY.

IN ACTUALITY, HE'S IN CHARGE OF MONITORING AND PUNISHING EVERY VIOLENT INCIDENT THAT HAPPENS INSIDE THE DRAGON'S NEST.
HE NEEDS TO BE SEEN AS THE ONE IN CHARGE—AND YOU EMBARRASSED HIM IN FRONT OF ALL THE NEW RESIDENTS!

BUT I COULDN'T JUST LEAVE HIM OUT THERE TO DIE.
YOU WON'T LAST LONG HERE IF YOU'RE SO CONCERNED ABOUT BEING NICE.

PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE NEST MIGHT THINK THIS IS A FULLY-SUSTAINABLE CITY BY ITSELF.
BUT WE LACK A LOT OF RESOURCES HERE.
FOOD...
WATER...
AND EVEN SPACE.

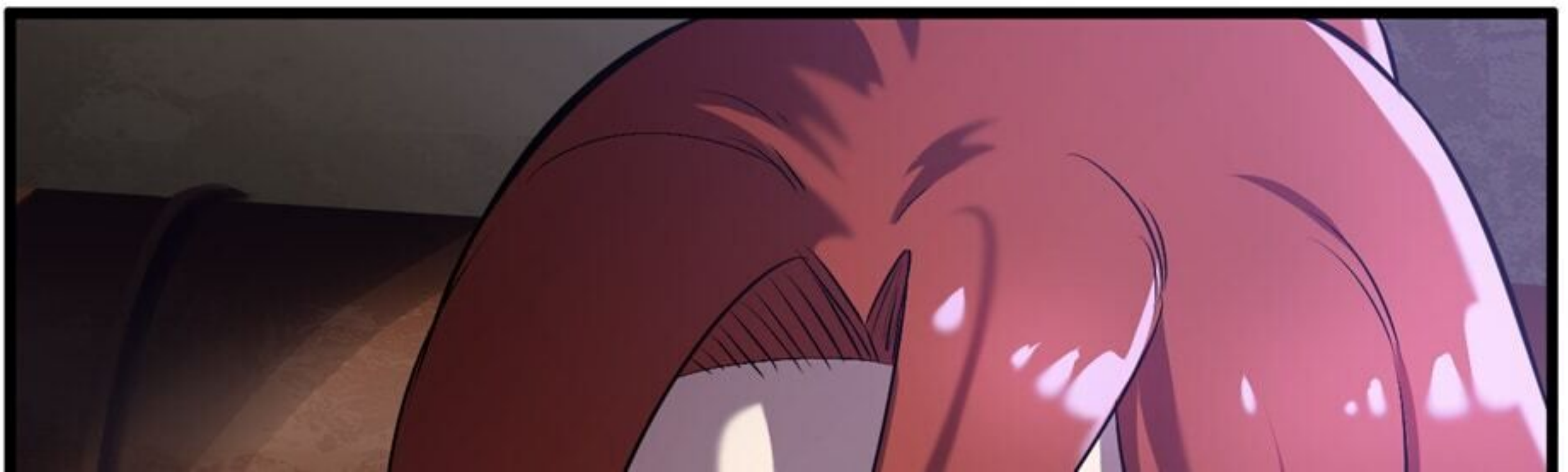
A DRAGON'S NEST?

NO, THIS IS JUST A REMOTE ISLAND.

KEEPING ORDER AND COMMAND

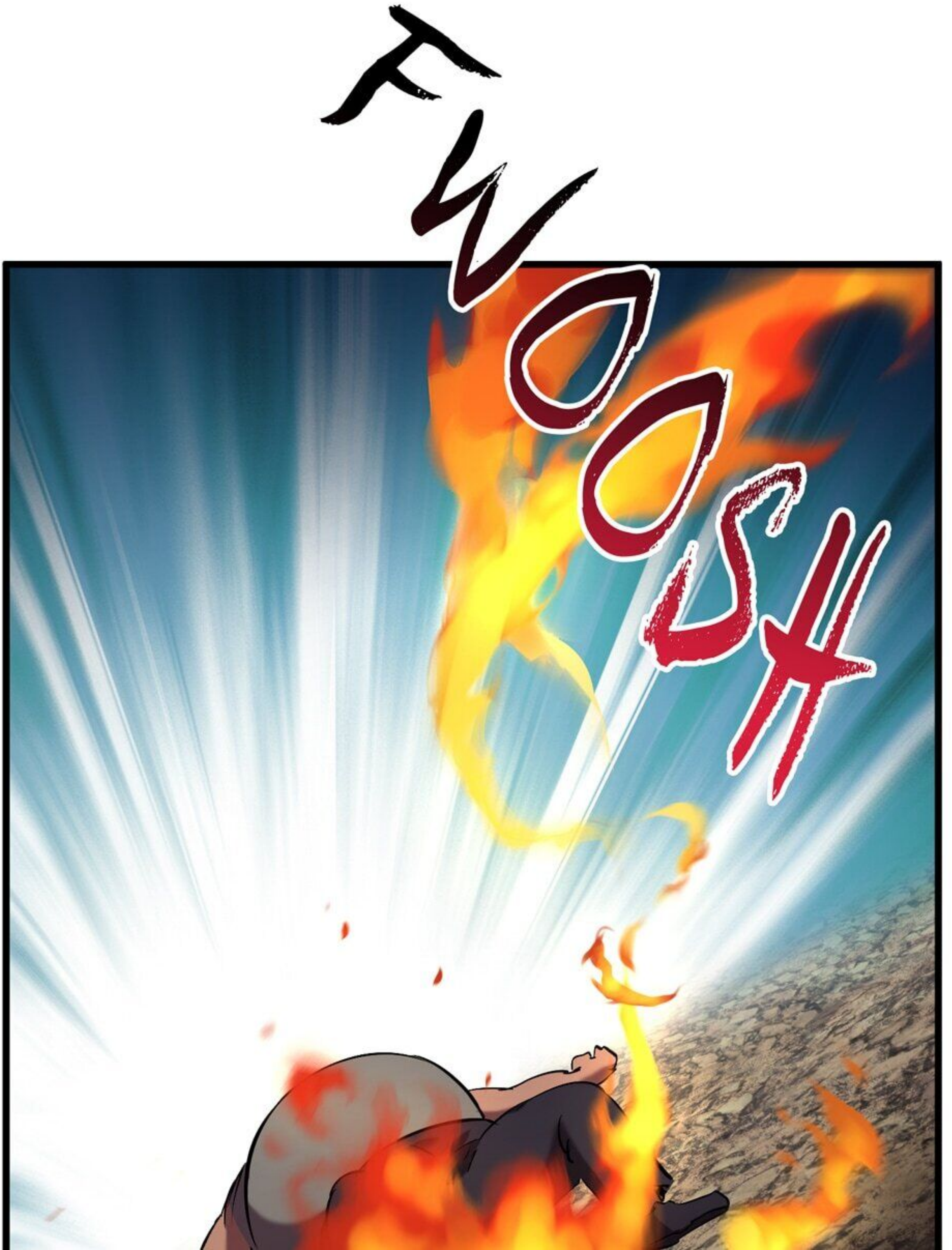
IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING HERE.

A NAIL THAT STICKS OUT GETS HAMMERED DOWN IMMEDIATELY.



I GUESS YOU'RE REALLY TRYING TO CONVINCE ME.

Mm

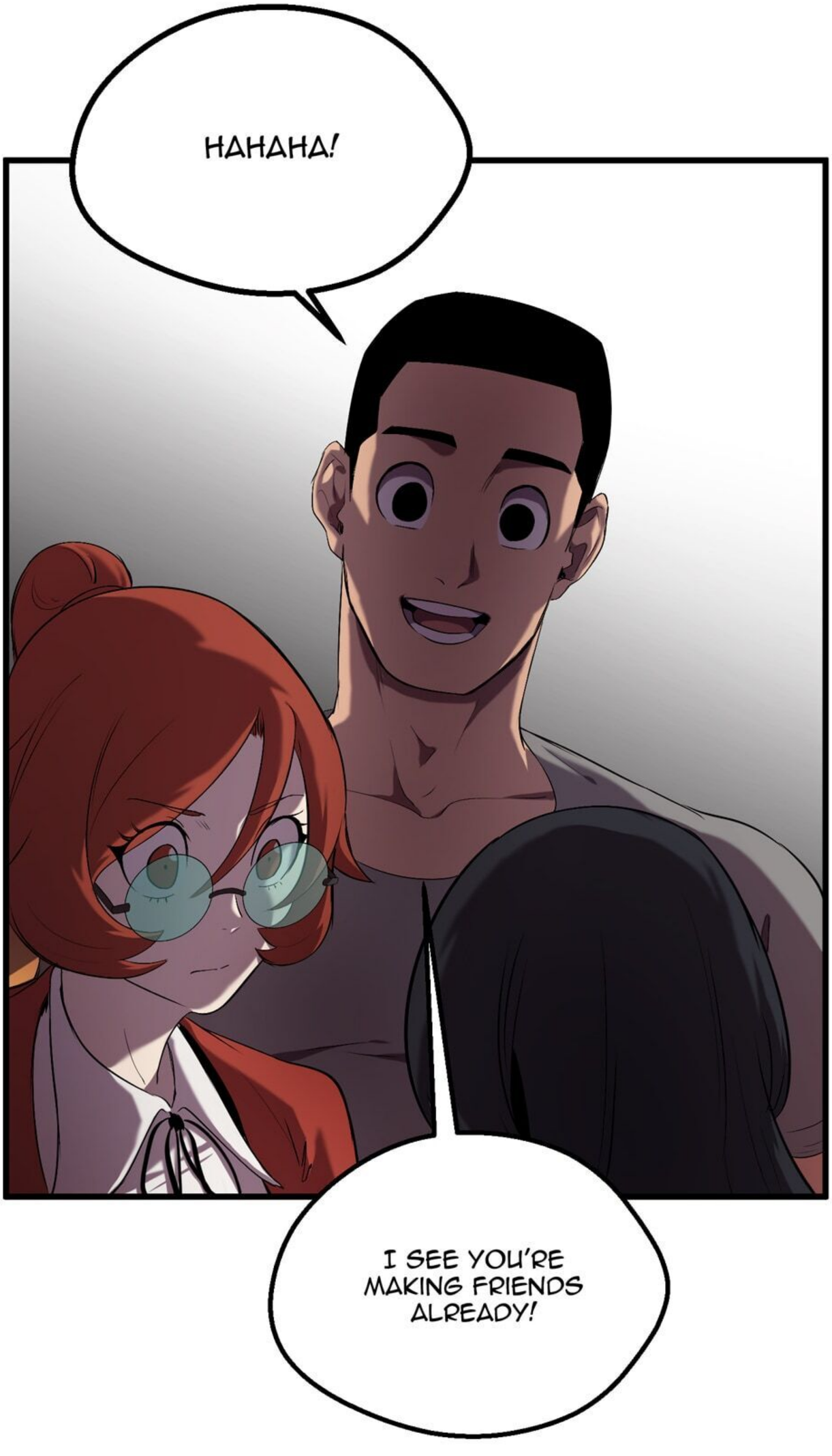

Fwoosh

STOP!

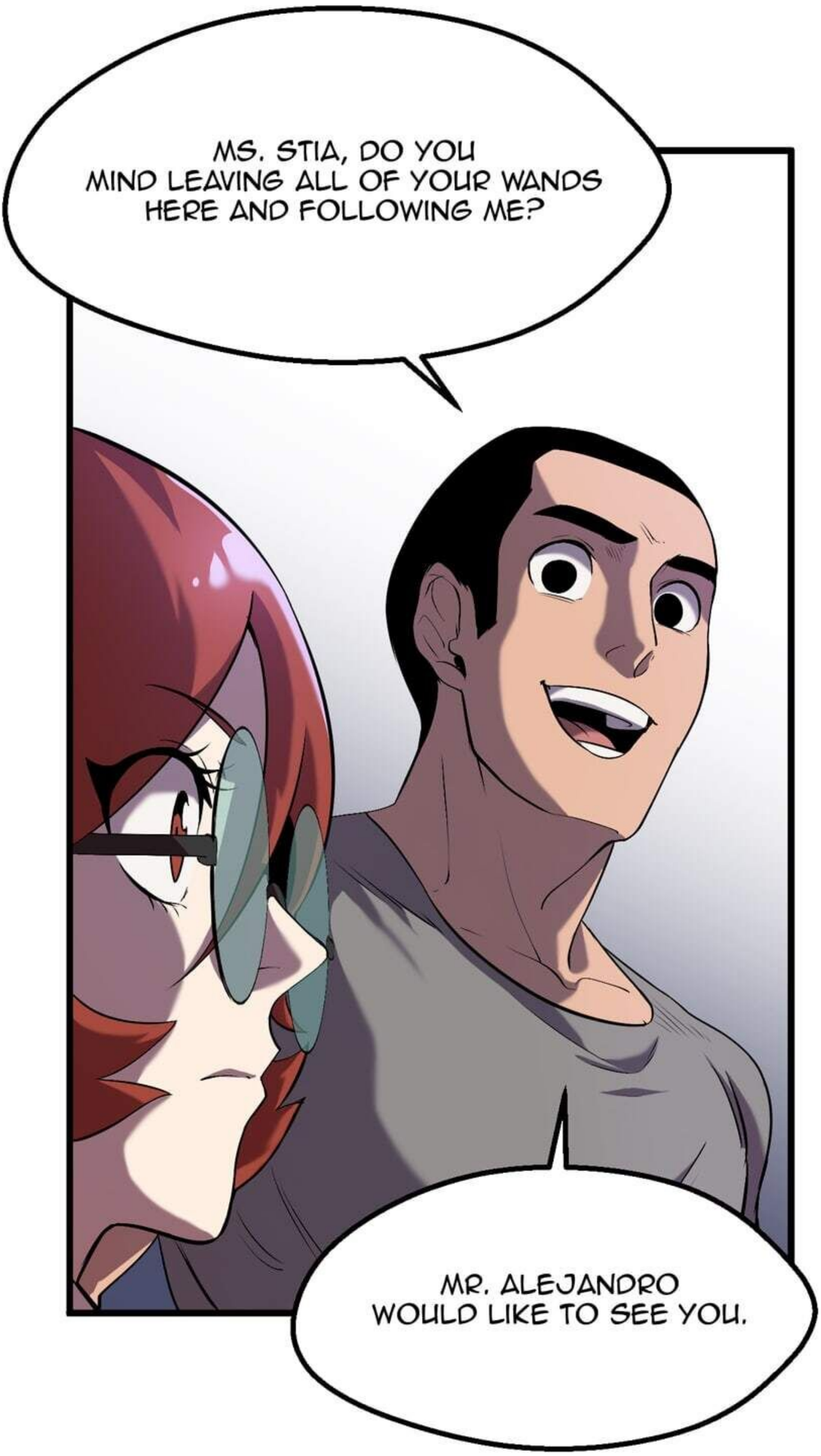
YOU GOTTA KEEP A SICK PERSON WARM AT ALL TIMES.

LOOK WHO'S BEING NICE!

Y-YOU...
...DID THAT ON PURPOSE!


HAHAHA!
I SEE YOU'RE MAKING FRIENDS ALREADY!

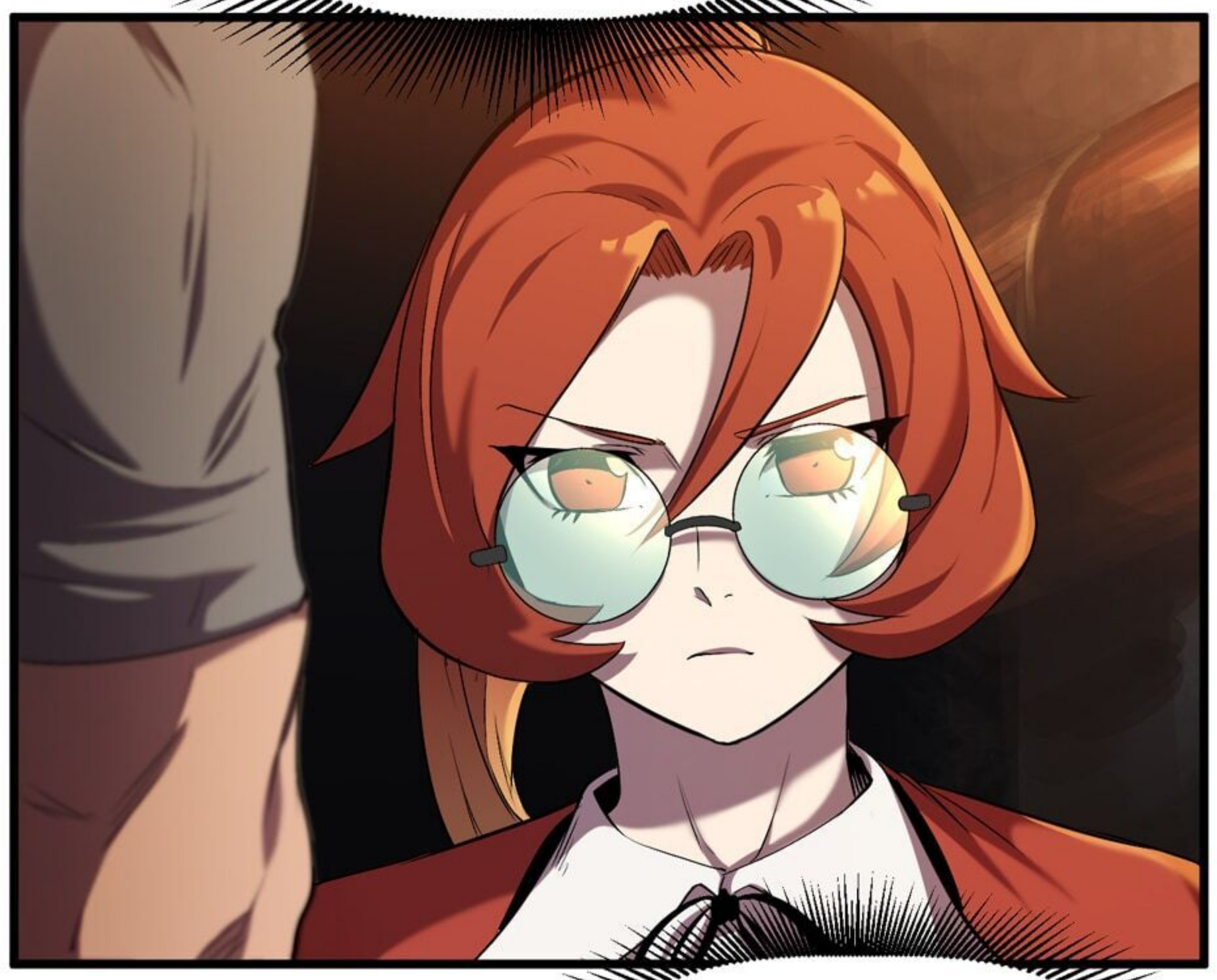
AHEM! I WAS JUST TELLING HER ABOUT SOME OF THE RULES HERE.
O-OH YES, IT'S MY FIRST TIME LIVING IN A COMMUNITY LIKE THIS.
I'M SURE YOU'RE BUSY WITH ALL THE NEW RESIDENTS. HOW CAN I HELP?


MS. STIA, DO YOU MIND LEAVING ALL OF YOUR WANDS HERE AND FOLLOWING ME?
MR. ALEJANDRO WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU.

MR. ALEJANDRO...?

TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
IT'S ONE TROUBLE AFTER ANOTHER...

I BARELY JUST GOT IN AND NOW I HAVE TO MEET THE HEAD HONCHO...



...WITHOUT MY WANDS!

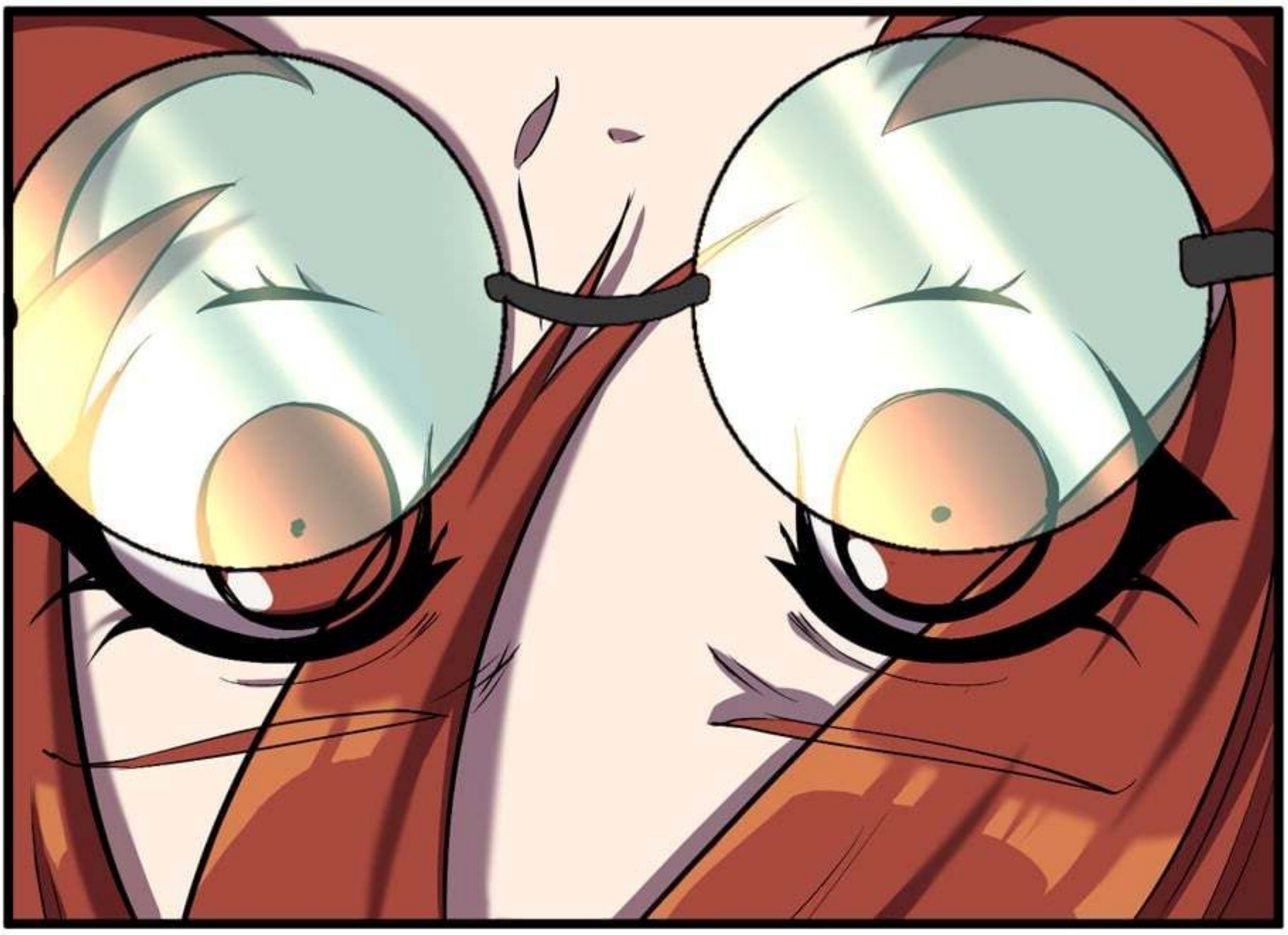
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE DRAGON'S NEST?
OH, IT'S MAGNIFICENT! JUST AS I'VE IMAGINED.

HAHAHA!
THAT'S NOT WHAT
I WAS ASKING.

THEN...

I'M
ASKING IF...

...THIS IS A
REAL DRAGON'S NEST.

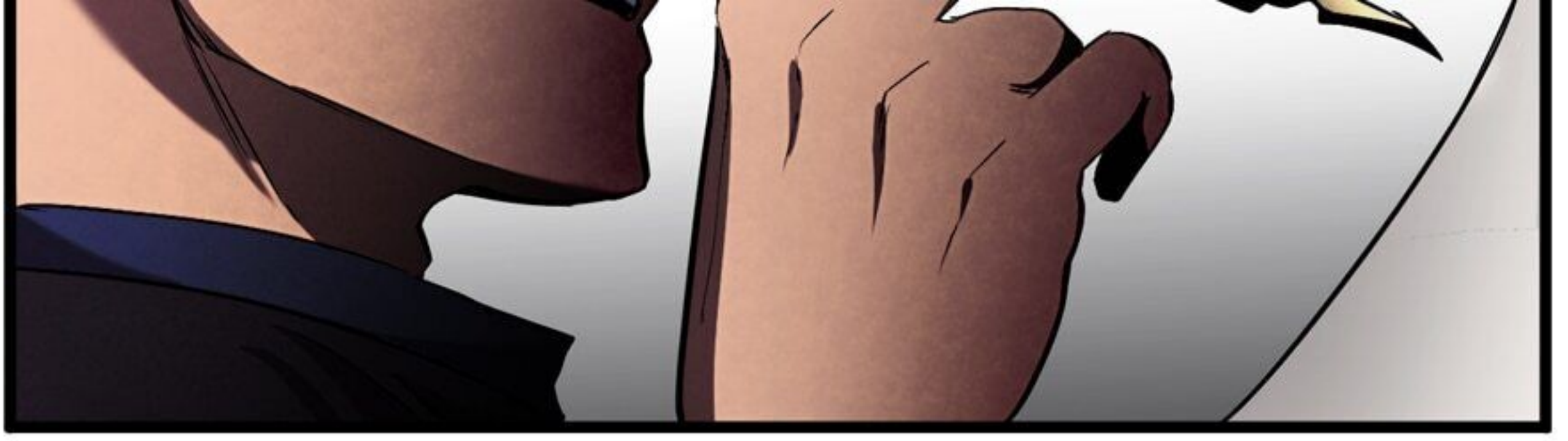


DIDN'T EMIL TELL YOU WE HAD MORE OF OUR OWN INSIDE THIS PLACE?
YOU CAN CALL ME 'HANDY.'
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...

THOSE ARE EMIL'S GLASSES.

THAT'S WHAT GAVE IT AWAY.

IF WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE, WHY DID YOU TAKE AWAY MY WANDS?



ALEJANDRO DOESN'T HAVE ANY WEAPONS WITH HIM EITHER, SINCE HE'S WORKING.
HE'S A SPELLSWORD WITHOUT ANY SWORDS WITH HIM AND I CAN USE AURA. NO NEED TO WORRY.
BUT WHAT CONCERNS ME IS THE WAY YOU'RE ACTING.

IF YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS CRAPPY PLACE,
DON'T TRY ANYTHING CUTE...
...LIKE SAVING THAT GIANT EARLIER.
NEVER FORGET THAT WE'RE HIDING OUR LEVELS—YOU AND ME BOTH!

ELISE SEEMS LIKE SHE'S QUICK TO CATCH ON TO THINGS. WE SHOULD GET RID OF HER FIRST.

I DON'T THINK SHE'S AWARE OF OUR PLAN AT ALL...

IF YOU WANT TO AVOID CAUSING UNNECESSARY DEATHS, GET AS MUCH INFORMATION

AS YOU CAN NOW.
WE NEED TO FIND OUT IF THIS REALLY IS A DRAGON'S NEST.
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO NERVO--

FLINCH

FLINCH
MR. HANDY?

VZZZZT

A-ALE...
ALEJANDRO...
WH-WHY...?

I KNOW
SOME VERMIN CAN
BE BENEFICIAL
TO THE SOIL...

VZZZT

VZZZT

...BUT I DON'T
WANT ANY ***RATS***
AROUND HERE.

CRACK

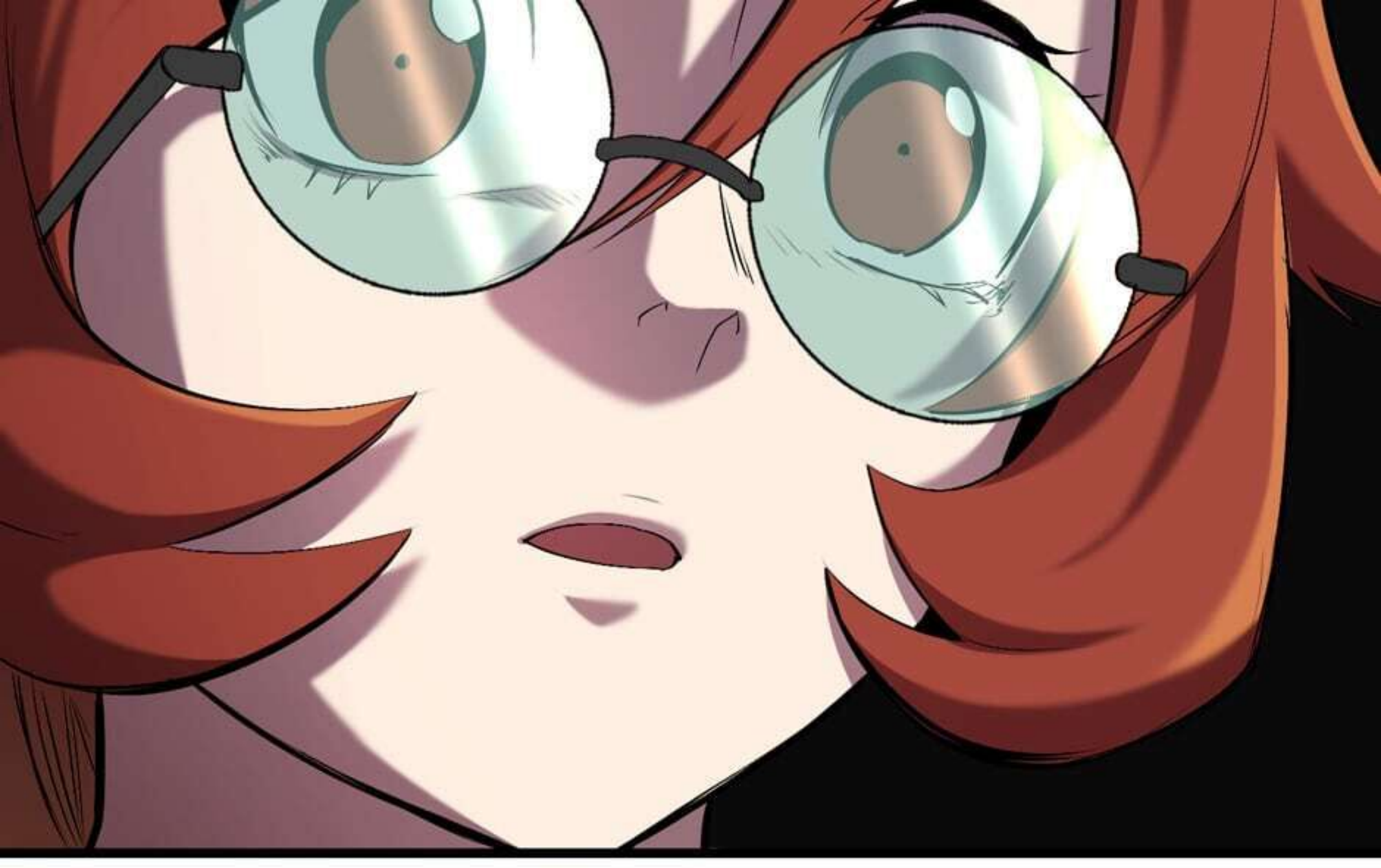
LE

THUD

I KNEW SOMETHING WAS UP WHEN A LEVEL 50 HUNTER CAME HERE.
BUT I NEVER KNEW THE CHURCH OF LIGHT WAS BEHIND HIM!
BUT THAT'S OK. WE NEEDED SOME PUBLICITY AROUND HERE.

SO, IF *HE* WORKED FOR THE CHURCH OF LIGHT...

...WHO ARE *YOU?*



RED DOG
CULTURE HOUSE

LATNA
SAGA
SURVIVAL OF A SWORD KING